

REMARKS

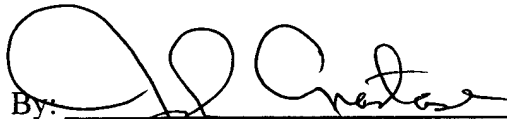
The election of Group I, Claims 1-16 and 66-68 is made with traverse to the Restriction Requirement.

The Applicant respectfully submits that search and examination of the pending claims in at least Groups I (claims 1-16 and 66-68) and II (claims 17-24) in the application can be made without undue burden on the Examiner. According to MPEP §803 "if search and examination of an entire application can be made without serious burden, the examiner must examine it on the merits" (emphasis added). For at least this reason, the Restriction Requirement is improper and should be withdrawn. In making the provisional election of Group I, Applicant retains the right to petition from the requirement under 37 C.F.R. §1.144. Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to reconsider and withdraw the restrictions requirement and proceed with the prosecution on the merits of all of the presently pending claims.

CONCLUSION

If this response is not considered timely filed and if a request for an extension of time is otherwise absent, Applicant hereby requests any necessary extension of time. If there is a fee occasioned by this response, including an extension fee, please charge any deficiency to Deposit Account No. 50/2762.

Respectfully submitted,
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